AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus comprising:

an end face for introducing light emitted from a light source; and

a light emitting surface outputting light introduced from said end face,

wherein said end face includes a light introducing portion in front of a portion of the light source, and said light introducing portion comprising a plurality of single notched prisms which disperse incident light, each of said single notched prisms is a triangular prism, a center of the light source is disposed adjacent to and spaced from a center of said light introducing portion, and an interval between two adjacent distal notched prisms in said light introducing portion is ~~different from~~ greater than an interval between two adjacent proximal notched prisms in said light introducing portion.

Claims 2-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface emitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light introducing portion comprises said plurality of single notched prisms including a central notched prism disposed in a center of said light introducing portion;

said plurality of single notched prisms, including said central notched prism, each include an apex angle, and each of said single notched prisms has the same apex angle as said central notched prism; and

a height of each of said single notched prisms other than said central notched prism decreases as the distance from said central notched prism increases.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface emitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of single notched prisms includes a central notched prism disposed in a center of said light introducing portion;

said plurality of single notched prisms, including said central notched prism, each include an apex angle, each of said single notched prisms has the same apex angle as said central notched prism; and

a height of each of said single notched prisms other than said central notched prism increases as the distance from said central notched prism increases.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface emitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of single notched prisms includes a central notched prism disposed in a center of said light introducing portion;

said plurality of single notched prisms, including said central notched prism, each include an apex angle, and each of said single notched prisms has the same apex angle as said central notched prism;

a height of each of said single notched prisms other than said central notched prism increases as the distance from said central notched prism increase; and

each of said single notched prisms includes an isosceles triangle.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface emitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of single notched prisms includes a central notched prism disposed in a center of said light introducing portion;

said central notched prism has a width; and

the width of said central notched prism and intervals between said central notched prism and said single notched prisms adjacent to said central notched prism are approximately equal in size.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface emitting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of single notched prisms includes a central notched prism disposed in a center of said light introducing portion;

said central notched prism has a width; and

the width of said central notched prism is smaller than intervals between said central notched prism and said single notched prisms adjacent to said central notched prism.

Claims 16-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): An optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus comprising:

an end face introducing light emitted from a light source;

a light emitting surface outputting light introduced from said end face; and

said end face including a light introducing portion in front of a portion of the light source, and said light introducing portion comprising a plurality of notched prisms including a flat portion disposed in a center of said light introducing portion, each of said notched prisms being a triangular prism, and a center of the light source being disposed adjacent to and spaced from a center of said light introducing portion,

wherein each of said notched prisms has an apex angle and the apex angles of each of said notched prisms disposed on one side of said flat portion are different than the apex angles of the other notched prisms on the one side of said flat portion.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the apex angle of each of said notched prisms on one side of said flat portion equals the apex angle of a respective notched prism on another side of said flat portion.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of notched prisms comprises an outer incident face on a side further from said flat portion and an inner incident face on a side closer to said flat portion; and

an apex angle made by said outer incident face and said inner incident face increases as the distance from said flat portion increases.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a portion of said end face is disposed between two adjacent notched prisms so as to form an interval therebetween.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): An optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus comprising:

an end face for introducing light emitted from a light source;

a light emitting surface outputting light introduced from said end face; and

said end face including a light introducing portion in front of a portion of the light source, and said light introducing portion comprising a plurality of notched prisms including a central notched prism disposed in a center of said light introducing portion, each of said notched prisms being a triangular prism, and a center of the light source being disposed adjacent to and spaced from a center of said light introducing portion,

wherein said plurality of notched prisms, including said central notched prism, each include an apex angle, and each of said notched prisms has the same apex angle as said central notched prism, and a height of said plurality of notched prisms decreases as the distance from said central notched prism increases.

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said plurality of notched prisms are disposed in said light introducing portion and a portion of said end face is disposed between two adjacent notched prisms so as to form an interval therebetween.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 25, wherein each of said notched prisms includes an isosceles triangle.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): An optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus comprising:

an end face for introducing light emitted from a light source;

a light emitting surface outputting light introduced from said end face;

said end face including a light introducing portion in front of a portion of the light source, and said light introducing portion comprising a plurality of notched prisms which disperse incident light, each of said notched prisms being a triangular prism, and a center of the light source being disposed adjacent to and spaced from a center of said light introduction portion; and a flat portion being disposed in a center of said light introducing portion,

wherein said plurality of notched prisms each include an apex angle which is equal to the other apex angles, and a height of said plurality of notched prisms decreases as the distance from said flat portion increases.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said plurality of notched prisms are disposed in said light introducing portion and a portion of said end face is disposed between two adjacent notched prisms so as to form an interval therebetween.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The optical waveguide plate for a surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 29, wherein each of said notched prisms includes an isosceles triangle.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A surface light emitting apparatus comprising:

a light source and an optical waveguide plate including an end face for introducing light emitted from said light source and a light emitting surface for outputting the light,

wherein said end face includes a light introducing portion in front of a portion of said light source, and said light introducing portion comprising a plurality of notched prisms which diffuse incident light, each of said notched prisms is a triangular prism, a center of said light source is disposed adjacent to and spaced from a center of said light introducing portion, and an interval between two adjacent distal notched prisms in said light introducing portion is ~~different from~~ greater than an interval between two adjacent proximal notched prisms in said light introducing portion, and said notched prisms are triangular pyramids in said end face.

Claims 34-37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Original): The surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said light source is a light emitting diode.

Claims 39-42 (Cancelled)

Claim 43 (Currently amended): A surface light emitting apparatus comprising:

a plurality of light sources and an optical waveguide plate including an end face for introducing light emitted from said plurality of light sources and a light emitting surface for outputting the light; and

said end face including a plurality of light introducing portions in front of a portion of each of said light sources, and each of said light introducing portions comprising a plurality of notched prisms including a flat portion disposed in a center of said light introducing portion, and a center of each of said light sources being disposed adjacent to and spaced from a respective center of said respective light introducing portion,

wherein each of said notched prisms has an apex angle and the apex angles of each of said notched prisms disposed on the one side of said flat portion are different than the apex angles of the other notched prisms on the one side of said flat portion.

Claim 44 (Original): The surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the apex angle of each of said notched prisms on one side of said flat portion equals the apex angle of a respective single notched prism on another side of said flat portion.

Claim 45 (Original): The surface light emitting apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said light source is a light emitting diode.

Claims 46-55 (Canceled)